GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1333
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
NUMBER OF PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTHS
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Telephone Booths functioning in the country at present, State- wise;

(b) whether most of these Booths remain out of order;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them functional;

(d) the number of Public Telephone Booths closed during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Mumbai and the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when these Public Telephone Booths are likely to be reopened?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Total number of Public Telephone Booths functioning in the country as on 31.12.2002 is 12,97,188. Details are given in the annexure.

(b) & (c) No, Sir. Most of the Public Telephone Boothsare functioning properly. As and when fault complaints are received, these are attended to on priority.

(d) 69,667 Public Telephone Booths in the country and 5,211 in Mumbai were closed during the last three years, Details are given in the annexure. These Booths were closed on account of subscriber request, non-payment of bills and misuse by the franchisees.

(e) Public Telephone Booths closed due to non-payment of bills can be re-opened after payment of outstanding dues and completion of necessary formalities by the franchisees. Public Telephone Booths closed due to misuse can be considered for restoration by the competent authority after receipt of representations from the concerned franchisees on the merit of each case.

Annexure

Sl. No.	Name of Circle / District	Number of Public Telephone Booths functioning as on 31.12.2002	Number of Public Telephone Booths closed during last three years
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	653	18
2.	Andhra Pradesh	122852	17957
3.	Assam	13408	251
4.	Bihar	38217	4726
5.	Jharkhand	10513	258
6.	Gujrat	80598	4750
7	Haryana	24093	1146

8.	Himachal Pradesh	7635	139
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11362	23
10.	Karnataka	87977	3525
11.	Kerala	55911	1540
12.	Maharashtra	144384	6781
13.	Madhya Pradesh	40085	2838
14.	Chattisgarh	5501	1391
15.	North-East I	3126	234
16.	North-East II	3602	292
17.	Orissa	21174	838
18.	Punjab	39548	2941
19.	Rajasthan	46816	2649
20.	Tamilnadu	91212	4552
21.	U.P. (East)	64736	0
22.	U.P. (West)	41700	985
23.	Uttaranchal	8227	87
24.	West Bengal	23464	359
25.	Kolkata Telephones	49618	2969
26.	Chennai Telephones	65404	102
27.	MTNL, Delhi+	69244	3105
28.	MTNL, Mumbai+	126128	5211
Total		1297188	69667

+ Figures of functioning Public Telephone Booths shown against MTNL Delhi and Mumbai are as 31.1.2003